



# City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Four, Issue 4b



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS DOWNTOWN

# WESTMINSTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

### SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY SHOPPING EXTRAVANZA

Downtown Westminster, Starts at 10 am

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

### "MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET"

"Miracle on 34th Street"

Carroll Arts Center, 3 pm

Holiday Electric Parade, 5 pm

Annual Tree Lighting & Mayor's Cup Award

Locust Lane, 6 pm

Santa's Treat

Westminster Family Fitness Center, 6 - 8:30 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

### FESTIVAL OF WREATHS

Carroll Arts Center, 10 am - 7 pm Daily

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22

### VISIT WITH SANTA CLAUS

Locust Lane, Noon - 4 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

### GALLERY OF GIFTS

Carroll Arts Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

### STARLIGHT SHOPPING

Downtown Westminster, 5 - 10 pm

EAT. SHOP. EXPERIENCE!

For more information go to:

[www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov)



## Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents:

The City and the Carroll County Public Library system celebrated the inauguration of Sunday hours at the Westminster branch at an official opening on October 21. The library will be open on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. from October through April. Please stop in and enjoy this new service.

I encourage you to shop and eat in downtown's unique, independently owned small businesses during the holiday season. Our Main Street businesses are truly a treasure and they deserve your patronage. Shopping locally at small businesses is one of the best ways to help keep our local economy strong.

Check out these and other activities on the City's web site at [westminstermd.gov](http://westminstermd.gov). You can also read the Main Street Matters blog on [WestminsterPatch.com](http://WestminsterPatch.com) on Tuesdays, like us on Facebook—"Downtown Westminster Maryland" and follow us on Twitter (@mainstreetmatters) for what's happening Downtown.

I hope to see you around Downtown!

### Carroll Arts Center Events

**Friday, November 9, 7pm; Saturday, November 10, 3pm & 7pm; Sunday, November 11, 3pm:** The Carroll Arts Center will be hosting a wild and wacky musical, "Bugsy Malone, Jr." The popular pint-sized, pin-striped classic leaps off the silver screen and onto the stage giving a child's dream come true: a classic pie fight fought with "splurge blasters" which spew forth "silly string" instead of pies! With a catchy, swinging score by the composer of The Muppet Movie! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors.

**Friday, November 16, 7:30 pm:** The Carroll Arts Center will be hosting a screening of "Dinner Rush," rated R; 99 mins. This independent film by director Bob Giraldi stars Danny Aiello as a restaurateur—bookmaker in New York City's Tribeca neighborhood and Edoardo Gero as his son, the restaurant's star chef. The film unfolds over the course of one evening in the restaurant as converging pressures from the son and his gambling Sous-chef, as well as organized crime figures and demanding customers culminate with deadly twist. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for CCAC Members,



Students and Seniors. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Carroll Food Sunday and receive one free small popcorn!

**Sunday, December 9, 2 pm:** The Carroll Arts Center will host a special matinee concert by "Oh Boy" a talented Buddy Holly Tribute Band. The band is known for its authentic rockabilly sound and they will perform a mix of good old fashioned "rock and roll" along with rockabilly styled Christmas numbers. Songs like "Blue Christmas", "Jingle Bell Rock", "Santa Bring my Baby Back," "Sleigh Ride," and "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree" will add up to toe tappin' heart pumpin' holiday fun for all ages. Buddy "Jolly" Holly may even make an appearance! Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors.

**Friday, December 14, 7:30 pm & Saturday, December 15, 3 pm & 7:30 pm:** The Carroll County Arts Council has a tradition of pairing the animated holiday film "A Charlie Brown Christmas" with a live performance of the unforgettable Vince Guaraldi Jazz Score during the holiday season. After the commercial-free screening of the film on the big screen, the lively jazz score is performed live by the Eric Byrd Trio. Trio members Eric Byrd (piano), Alphonso Young, Jr.

(drum) and Bhagwan Khalsa (bass) are energetic, masterful musicians of modern jazz. Each concert will end with a live auction of the charmingly pathetic "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree", that will decorate the stage! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC Members, Seniors and Students 18 and under.

**Friday, December 21, 3 pm and Saturday, December 22, 8 pm:** A live production of "A Christmas Carol" has become a tradition at the Carroll Arts Center during the holiday season. This year the Center welcomes back the acclaimed Maryland Ensemble Theatre for their joyful version of Charles Dickens classic tale. There's a heartwarming adaptation that is designed to appeal to all ages. The main character of Ebenezer Scrooge is a miser in the first degree and he thinks Christmas is "humbug." When Scrooge is visited by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, he starts to see his life in a different light. Beautiful staging, breathtaking special effects and stellar performances combine for a magical theatrical experience. Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$13 for CCAC Members, Students 18 and Under and Seniors.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the box office, or on line with a major credit card at [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org).

Please check our website for the most current and up-to-date schedule of events!

### Gallery Exhibit

**Gallery of Gifts to fill the Carroll Arts Center during the Holidays**



The Carroll Arts Center continues their annual tradition by transforming their Tevis Gallery into the "Gallery of Gifts" during the holiday shopping season. This special cash and carry exhibit will resemble a boutique rather than a

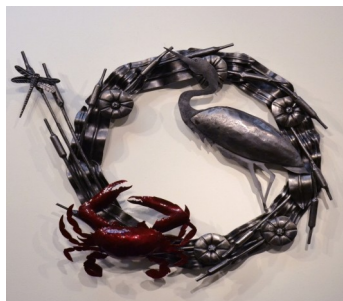
traditional gallery exhibit, as 30+ artists will display their festive wares. The show will continue to feature the same level of artistic quality that Arts Center visitors have come to expect and will encourage our commitment to "shop local and buy handmade." There will be a wide variety of hand-crafted creations from inexpensive stocking stuffers, older décor and traditional arts and crafts to truly elegant special gifts. Local artists combine with regional artists for a distinct flavor of fashion, fantasy and whimsy. To lessen the holiday stress, there will be complimentary gift

bagging for all purchases!

The "Gallery of Gifts" will be open December 6 through December 22 from 10 am to 4 pm Monday and Wednesday and from 10 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Gallery of Gifts will be open during all of the productions in the theater as well. On opening Day, Thursday, December 6m, CCAC Members will be entitled to a 10% discount.

### 15th Annual Festival of Wreaths:

**15th Annual Festival of Wreaths: It's Gonna Get UGLY!!**



For the past 15 years, the Carroll County Arts Council has presented one of the most anxiously awaited holiday events in the County. Their Annual Festival of Wreaths is set to begin earlier than usual to coincide with Westminster's Holiday

Parade, Tree Lighting and Small Business Saturday. It will open Saturday, November 24 and run through Saturday December 1 at the Carroll Arts Center in downtown Westminster. The event is free to the public and will be open 10 am– 7 pm daily.

The Festival traditionally features more than 220 uniquely decorated theme wreaths that range from wacky to whimsical and from elegant to eclectic. There is an amazing level of creativity, engineering and generosity exemplified in the diverse entries. Proceeds from the week-long silent auction benefit the Carroll County Arts Council.

We are hosting the 1st Annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Party on Friday, November 30 from 5-7 pm. We invite folks to don their most garish, glittery holiday sweaters or silly Christmas neck ties and join us for a night of frivolity, festivities and fruitcake! There will be a host of prizes award for the "ugliest" holiday attire and finalists will get to model their garish fashions on stage.

The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 West Main Street in Westminster and is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm. For more information, call 410-848-7272 or visit [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org).



## Online Access for Water/Sewer Accounts

Get 24/7 unlimited access to your water/sewer account information by registering online at [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov). View your bill before it arrives in the mail, see payments made and usage history any time of day or night, weekends and holidays. You can also pay your bill via Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card through your online account.

## Recreation Events: October, November & December

# November-December-January

### **School's Out Fun Day! 11/6**

#### **9am-4pm (extended care 7am-6pm available)**

School's out for election day and you have to work??

No problem! We have a fun filled day to keep your kids safe, happy and busy!

\$20 per child, per day (9am-4pm) and \$5 additional, each AM and PM care, per child, per day!

Register early, space is limited!

### **Veterans Day Ceremony**

#### **Sunday, November 11 4pm**

This remembrance service will be held at the Longwell Municipal Center 11 Longwell Ave.) For more information call the American Legion Post #31, 410-857-7953 or 410-876-0746.

### **PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!**

Start making plans, because we have the child care covered! Kids will have a great time playing games, doing crafts, watching movies, eating pizza and making new friends!

5-8:30pm \$15/first child, \$5 each additional-same family.

November 17 or December 15

5-8:30pm

Longwell Municipal Center, 11 Longwell Avenue

Call 410-848-9161 today-space is limited!

### **Tree Lighting Ceremony And**

#### **Holiday Parade**

#### **Saturday, November 24 5pm**

Come celebrate the holiday season in Historic Westminster.

Enjoy the seasonal sounds of the Westminster Municipal Band, sing carols, see the awarding of the Mayor's Cup and await the arrival of Santa. Come early to purchase a treat from the holiday bake sale and enjoy a free cup of hot chocolate.

### **Santa's Treat**

#### **Saturday, November 24 until 8:00 pm**

FREE children's event. Held in the old Armory (11 Longwell Ave.) Begins directly after the Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Games, crafts, music, fun...and, of course, SANTA!!!

### **Get a head start on that New Year's Resolution!**

Join the Westminster Family Center: A full-service health and wellness center for the whole family!

Call 410-751-5501 for more information or just stop by for a tour! Memberships start at just \$25!

Having a holiday party? Rent the Community Building at the Westminster Municipal Pool, 325 Royer Road.

[www.westminstermd.gov/recreation/rec\\_parks.html](http://www.westminstermd.gov/recreation/rec_parks.html)





# WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Personal Safety Tips for the Holidays



As the holidays approach and we head to the malls for our annual holiday shopping it is important to practice sound crime prevention and personal safety strategies. The following guidance is offered to assist you in safeguarding yourself and your family during the busy holiday season and throughout the year:

- Park in well-lit areas and walk in groups whenever possible. Have your car keys in your hand and ready to use when you reach your car.
- Stay alert and be aware of who and what is around you. Talking on your cell phone tends to distract you from focusing full attention on your surroundings and should be avoided.
- Always close your car windows and lock your car. Scan the interior of your car before getting in to ensure that no one is hidden inside.
- Remove items of value such as cell phones, GPS units and gifts from your car or place them in your trunk or out of view.
- Avoid carrying or flashing large sums of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever practical. Only carry those credit cards that you think you will use – leave the rest at home.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages. They tend to distract you and make you an easy target for thieves.
- Be extra careful with your purse or wallet. Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Carry your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Teach your children to go to a police officer, store clerk or security person if they get lost.
- **"If you see it...say it"**. Report suspicious activity to the Police Department and store security immediately.

Utilizing these strategies will increase your personal safety and decrease the potential of your holiday being ruined by an unwanted crime. Should you need additional information relating to holiday crime prevention strategies please feel free to contact Sergeant Keith Benfer of the Community Education Section at (410) 857-9282 or by email at [kbenfer@westgov.com](mailto:kbenfer@westgov.com).

## Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

